

The House Committee on Public Safety offers the following substitute to HR 1692:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on a Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness and
2 Response Training Program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is essential to public health and safety that this state be prepared in the event
4 of a large-scale public safety emergency caused by either bioterrorism, natural or manmade
5 disaster, or the rapid transmission of a life-threatening disease; and

6 WHEREAS, a natural or manmade disaster, pandemic, or epidemic has the potential of
7 causing extensive casualties, devastating health consequences for the citizens of this state,
8 and the disruption of critical community services due to the incapacitation of essential human
9 infrastructure and, to attempt to avoid such tragic consequences, local leaders should be
10 prepared and trained to efficiently and immediately respond to such emergencies; and

11 WHEREAS there is a need, as an integral part of the state's emergency preparedness in the
12 event of a large-scale public safety emergency, for state and local governments to develop
13 consistent and meaningful contingency plans and for county and municipal governments to
14 have pre-prepared procedures for the implementation of an effective and immediate response
15 to such a disaster; and

16 WHEREAS, in the event of a large-scale public safety emergency or disaster, state and local
17 officials will be called upon to implement a response plan and will be expected to efficiently
18 and with assurance lead the state and its citizens.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 there is created the House Study Committee on a Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness
21 and Response Training Program to be composed of five members of the House of
22 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The

1 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The
2 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Georgia's Office of Homeland Security, the Georgia
4 Emergency Management Agency, the Georgia Municipal Association, and the Association
5 County Commissioners of Georgia shall work cooperatively with the committee to help to
6 develop emergency preparedness courses for training local government leaders.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the development of the courses and instruction should
8 consider the following concerns and issues as these relate to emergency preparedness and
9 response:

- 10 (1) The need for coordinated response plans on the regional, state-wide, and national
11 levels;
- 12 (2) Interagency cooperation and agreements between agencies and private entities on the
13 local, regional, state, and national levels, including agreements with elected representatives,
14 law enforcement, first responders, and the media;
- 15 (3) Agreements with health care insurers, Medicaid or other federal medical programs, and
16 health care product, equipment, and services providers for cooperation with public health
17 recommendations during an epidemic;
- 18 (4) The coordination, recruitment, and training of medical and nonmedical emergency
19 volunteers;
- 20 (5) The identification of available facilities for the provision of medical care,
21 decontamination, quarantine, training, and morgue services;
- 22 (6) The need to stockpile medications or medical equipment;
- 23 (7) The availability of communication and the need for developing communication
24 procedures;
- 25 (8) The development of uniform and humane quarantine procedures; and
- 26 (9) Methods for filling critical infrastructure services such as police, fire, and EMT
27 services as well as sanitation, water, and electrical services.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
29 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
30 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
31 focus its attention on the steps necessary to ensure that county and municipal government
32 leaders are provided meaningful courses of instruction, training, and guidance so that our
33 county and municipal government leaders are prepared to respond to a large-scale public

1 safety emergency. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such
2 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its
3 powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
4 The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section
5 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this
6 resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
7 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
8 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The
9 committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
10 proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand
11 abolished on December 31, 2006.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Governor, the director
14 of Georgia's Office of Homeland Security; the director of the Georgia Emergency
15 Management Agency, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, and the Georgia
16 Municipal Association.